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Algona High School Gift ideas

MaKayla Metzger

With the Christmas season quickly approaching, many parents and students are wondering what gifts to get for friends and family. Here are some gift ideas for high school students.

The newest video game, *Call of Duty Modern Warfare 3*, would be a wonderful gift for any video game fanatic who doesn't have it yet. *Bop It! XT* is the perfect gift for someone who doesn't have very good coordination, and it will give you both a good laugh. Great for anyone who has an iPod is an iTunes gift card.

Another option is

gift cards, loved by all because it allows them to get exactly what they want; instead of guessing and getting it wrong. A gift card for Vanity, American Eagle, Hollister, Western Edge, Kohl's, Target, Amazon.com, Buckle, Cabela's, Bass Pro Shop, Scheels, Best Buy, Casey's, Cenex, Kum & Go, Panera, McDonald's, Subway, or Applebee's would be great for any high school student, depending on their interests. Jessica Mueller says, "I want Bearpaw Buckingham's."

Happy shopping and hope you get something good!

Edited by: Rachel Feuring & Celeste Smith

December 9, 2011

What do you want for Christmas?

"A truck."

-Heather Ziesman

"World peace."

Nathyn Trenary

"Infinite money."

Clay Collison

"Plane ticket to Alaska."

Brie Walker

"A new phone."

Madison Durant

"A laptop."

Amanda Claussen

"A giraffe."

Clinton Schutjer

"A Honda 450R."

McCain Jennings

"A Tonka truck."

Brody Vaske

"Shoes."

Nicole Kenne

"A million dollars."

Bethany Laddusaw

"iPod."

Zach Trunkhill

"iPhone 4S."

Brittney Bradford

"Friends."

Brandon Benschoter

"A rocket ship."

Sawyer Frideres

"A wife."

Casey Hiscocks

"A life."

Micah Lavrenz

"More snow so I can make more snow angels."

Jace Taylor

"College to come sooner."

Catherine Edgerton

"Snowmobile windshield."

Jacob Kofoot

"A pony."

Gabe Combs

"My two front teeth."

Ben Overstreet

SEMESTER TEST SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Period 1 8:30-10:00

Period 2 10:15-11:45

Period 3 1:00-2:30

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Period 4 8:30-10:00

Period 5/6 10:15-11:45

Period 7 1:00-2:30

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Period 8 8:30-10:00

Period 9 10:15-11:45

Make up testing 1:00-2:30

Reminder - no lunch provided at AHS unless you sign up for a sack lunch by December 16th*

Down and ready

Katie Riley

Algona High School wrestlers have started their season already on December 1, 2011, with a meet in Eagle Grove. AHS ended up with a 60-24 win. Wrestler, Austin Long, says, "The wrestling season is going well and I think we will have a good season."

On December 3, 2011, AHS wrestlers competed in a tournament at Eagle Grove. The teams who competed in the tournament were Eagle Grove, Ankeny, Oskaloosa, Emmetsburg, Clarion, Fort Dodge, Ballard, and AHS. Algona placed

seventh out of the eight teams at the tournament on Saturday.

The next meet was on December 8, 2011, here at AHS. It was a triangular between Clarion and Humboldt. AHS lost to Clarion 47-15 but beat Humboldt 30-28.

This weekend is the home Martin Invitational. The JV meet is on Friday, December 9th, and the Varsity meet is on Saturday, December 10th. Good luck to all of the wrestlers involved this season!



Above: The drill team poses for a picture before leaving for State dance.

Tearin' up the dance floor

Taylor Setzer

The AHS dance team has been getting ready for their major competition of their season for the past three months. The team took part in the annual ISDTA competition in Des Moines on December 1st and 2nd. The girls competed in class III Jazz and class III Kick.

They performed their jazz routine to "Mama Knows Best" on the evening of their first day at the Wells Fargo Arena. The girls received a Division I for their jazz performance.

For their kick routine, they danced to the song "Beautiful People," which

was performed the next morning. The girls were called up for a Division I during the awards ceremony and were then awarded with a third place trophy. Junior, Bergen Brown, said, "I was very happy that we placed in kick! We have worked very hard on our kick routine and

I thought we really deserved it!"

The girls will continue to dance at half-time's of the home varsity basketball games. Their next performance is on Tuesday, December 13th, at the Eagle Grove game at Algona High School.

Coaches Corner

Tashia Lemus

Coaches Corner this week highlights Tricia Hard-Lahndorf, better known as Ms. Elle by the students of AHS. She is an English teacher at AHS and also the speech director.

"When I direct, I show the students a sketch of what I envision the play or performance looking like

and then I work with, foster, and encourage them to 'fill in the picture' and turn it into a production with the cooperation of their talents," stated Ms. Elle, expressing her feelings about her speech students. Elle is very passionate about speech and cares very much about her job at AHS.

Elle graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from Morningside.

In college, she played Maria in *West Side Story*. While explaining her part in *West Side Story*, she stated, "Staying part of it wasn't easy, I just worked on

incorporating various forms of theater into the required curriculum!"

Elle tries "to teach students what I see going on in the script; then together we create!" Check out the AHS speech team or one of the plays where you can see Ms. Elle!

Sports

Algona High School

Edited by: Rachel Feuring & Celeste Smith

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December 9, 2011

Ballin'!

Janet Hofmann

The Algona High School girls' basketball team is on a roll! They started off the season with a scrimmage against West Hancock in Britt on November 19, losing to the fifth-ranked (in class 2A) Eagles with all returning starters from last year's State semi-finalist team. The Bulldogs fell to West Hancock with a score of 43-62.

Algona's first regular season game was a win against the Forest City Indians on November 22. The Bulldogs held the Indians towards the end of the last quarter 10-1, winning the game 56-47. Junior Heather Ziesman led the team in both scoring (14 points) and in rebounds (11). Paige Yi followed Ziesman in points with 11, followed by Abby

Strohman with 8.

On November 29, the Bulldogs played their first Conference game against Clear Lake, winning 50-29. Algona led 26-16 at half-time. The Lions made a run in the third quarter, cutting close to the Bulldogs with a score of 31-24, but Algona stopped them in action. Heather Ziesman again led the Bulldogs in points with 13, closely followed by Rachel Teague with 10. Ziesman led in rebounds as well with 7, followed by Jade Simpson and Katlyn Loesch with 6 each.

AHS's game on December 2nd against Iowa Falls-Alden was a win: 43-32. Rachel Teague led scoring for the Bulldogs with 9 points, followed by Heather

Ziesman with 8, and Tangy Wiseman with 7. Jeni Zeller had 3 steals and a block, and Ziesman and Jade Simpson led with blocks, with 11 and 10 respectively.

The December 3rd match against Charles City was cancelled due to the nasty winter weather. At press time, the results of the game with Clarion-Goldfield December 6th game were unavailable.

Brad Bjustrom said, "The girls look like they're going to have a solid season."

The girls play tonight, December 9th, in Webster City, so get out and support the girls' basketball team!



Above: Jade Simpson grabs a rebound against Clear Lake.

Photos by Jim Gale

Hoop action

Dylan Cink

The boys' basketball season is underway. Their first game was on November 29th at home against Charles City. The Bulldogs came out with a win by a score of 56 to 32. Sam Curtis ended up with 9 points while Sawyer Frideres ended up with 4 points.

The guys then went on to Iowa Falls-Alden on December 5th to play the Cadets. They lost a hard fought match-up by a score of 51-64. In that game, Samuel Lipps was the leading scorer

for Algona with 21 points. Sam Curtis also chipped in 10 points. After being asked how he thought the season was going so far, Sawyer Frideres said, "We are getting better every day. I am feeling the improvements in our team."

The next game for the Bulldogs was on Tuesday, December 6th, on the road against Clarion Goldfield. The Bulldogs came out on top with a score of 53-36. The top scorer for the Bulldogs was Samuel Lipps with

17 points. Cole Nielsen was also very involved as he had a lot of rebounds.

The Bulldogs next play Webster City on the road on Friday, November 9th. The guys would like to see a big crowd at the game that night, so come out and cheer on your AHS Bulldogs!

Right: Sam Lipps goes up for a shot against the Charles City Comets.



WWE 12

Mike Vandy

On November 22nd, one of the biggest games of the year came out. It's bigger, badder, and better. It is *WWE 12*. The game is a new revolutionary way for gamers to live the WWE experience. The game, in previous years that WWE has produced, has been looked at as underachieved and over-rated. Fans have been begging for a change. Finally, our desires have been answered.

WWE has a new system in its product called predator technology, which allows better game flow, more quality A.I. (artificial intelligence), and shows a better quality of the game.

The game also busted out a huge roster this year, featuring legends past and present. Some ones worth noting include Randy

Savage, who tragically died earlier this year, as well as the Next Big Thing and former UFC champion Brock Lesnar.

Modes like *WWE Universe mode 2.0* and the *Road to Wrestlemania* improved from last year's game and give gamers a reason to be happy about the new product.

The game has a 9.0 rating on IGN.com and already has the world buzzing. The rating ties them with the *Modern Warfare 3* rating.

So, if you're not busy shooting up some bad guys, try out *WWE 12* for the PS3, X-Box 360, and Wii consoles. Cost is \$60 for X-Box/PS3 while the Wii is varied but mostly \$50. *WWE 12* is rated T for teen.

Dirty Jobs

Kuleen Parsons

Dirty Jobs is a show about how Mike Rowe goes around the world to see all the dirty jobs people do. This show is on during weekdays and it is on the Discovery Channel.

Watching this show will amaze you at what people have to do to earn a living. Rowe is not a person to stand by and watch; he gets his hands dirty and gets the real deal. He has worked alongside rattlesnake catchers, fish processors, bee removers, septic-tank technicians, and other professionals. Maddie Goche says,

"It's pretty cool to watch."

These tasks are something no one really wants to do but someone has to do it. You will walk away from this show with more info than needed. Rowe has done things like serving slop to pigs, removing fish bones, and plenty more disgusting jobs.

If you watch this show, you will gain a new understanding of how often people have to do such unpleasant jobs that makes everyone else's life easier, safer, and often cleaner.

Slip, skid, and slide

Nick Bitz

It's that time of year again; the snow has fallen and the roads are icy. For many students at AHS, this is an entirely new driving experience. So, here is some advice to help you drive a little safer.

First and foremost, drive with your headlights on, even during the day. It helps others see you better, especially white cars that are not easily seen against the snow.

Drive slow. Even if your vehicle has 4-wheel drive, it still only has four points of contact to try to stop on.

If you find it hard to stop, shift your vehicle into neutral. This will take the force of the motor off of the wheels and will help you to stop sooner, making it less likely to slide.

Slow down before you get to where you want to stop; also, push gently on the brakes so you don't lock the tires.

Finally, stop with enough room to be able see

the rear tires touching the ground of the car in front of you.

As many of you know, the parking lot is very difficult to manage after it snows. If no lines are visible, park in the back row first, parking the same as you usually do. Then start a row where the third row would be. After that fills up, move forward to where the second row would be and again park normally.

Make sure to leave enough room between cars to safely get in and out. Most importantly, if you see that you parked poorly, don't leave it! Get back in your car and move it to where it needs to be.

If cars have already parked angled, you should line the front of your car with the front tire of the car next to you.

Just remember to be safe this winter. Drive slowly and be careful. Driving defensively could just keep you out of the ditch.

AAA recommended winter driving tips:

- *Avoid driving while you're fatigued.
- *Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- *Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- *Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- *Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- *If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy, and snowy weather.
- *Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- *Always look and steer where you want to go.
- *Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

School News

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Algona High School FFA barn

Edited by: Rachel Feuring & Celeste Smith

December 9, 2011

AJ Wagner

The Algona FFA students started a project this summer: reconstructing the FFA barn at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds. They decided to pull off the old wood and put up nice, shiny, red tin. The project seemed easier than it turned out to be.

They had to lift the entire building up and take the rotten wood out and replace it. They have put a new garage door on the south side and are putting a walk in door to the west of it. Also, they are adding new

sliding windows that are bigger than the old ones.

The project has almost come to a finish. The members who worked on the barn were: Cory Kruse, A.J. Wagner, Brett Laubenthal, Nathan Skallerup, Heather Ziesman, Morgan

Muller, Weston Shaw, and Tyler Laubenthal. John Skallerup deserves a big thanks for the work he put in during his free time! Brett Laubenthal says, "It'll be nice to get it finished!"

One Act Play

Scott Haas

Speech season is underway for the year. With over 100 students out for speech, it is a sign for a good year. There are ten different speech groups you can be in, but students can only be in two different ones. One of the speech groups you can be in is One Act Play. One Act Play is what it sounds like, it's a play with only one

act.

This year's One Act Play is called "Fatality." It is a play about a girl who goes to a party and, against everyone's wishes, drives home and gets into a terrible accident.

The cast has a total of 18 students. The lead "Kate" is played by senior Mikayla Torpy. Other leads

include Cameron Lahndorf as "Jake" and Courtney Schmitt as "Kate's mother." Nick Bitz said, "Bring a tissue and be ready to bawl your eyes out."

Contest for One Act Play isn't until January 24th, but it takes place at Algona High School. So mark your calendar and come out to support your classmates.

Get glittered!

Sawyer Brandt

Girls at AHS, fear no more! Your hair no longer has to fall in front of your face during school! The Student Senate at AHS is now selling glitter headbands that read "BULLDOGS."

They cost \$10 and can be picked up from Mrs. Spear in her classroom. She will also be attending one of

the upcoming AHS basketball games to sell them.

Scott Haas thinks "ten dollars is too much," but the proceeds will go to help Student Senate events.

So if you're looking for a great gift idea or a stylish accessory to go with your Bulldog attire, keep your eyes peeled for Mrs. Spear!

Bronson David

Jergenson!

Jeremy Black

Bronson Jergenson was born on July 16, 1993. He was born in the Mason City hospital. His family is pretty big. He's got his mother, Sandy, father, Jeff, and three brothers, ranging in ages 10 to 21. His new baby sister is named Haylen, his youngest brother, Noland, is 10, Landon is 14, Bronson is 18, and his oldest brother, Jacob, is 21.

Bronson is employed at the Algona Pizza Hut. He got the job after almost 5 years at Subway. When he isn't working, he is busy hanging out with friends. His favorite part about school is open campus.

Bronson is a pretty athletic guy. He's been in

track for three years. He was in football for all four years of high school but his season ended short due to torn labrum.

Bronson is planning on graduating at semester, "I can't wait to be done in two weeks." All and all he is a pretty neat guy. Be sure to tell him "hi" before he is done!



Bring back the gold

Bronson Jergenson

On November 19th, Jacob Hutchison and Matt Foertsch went down to Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in Special Olympics bowling. Jacob had some stiff competition. He had seven other kids in his category, but that didn't stop Jacob from winning and bring back the gold medal. Three other coaches from other schools, said that Jacob had the best sportsmanship there. Jacob also said, "It was really fun, and I met a lot of new friends. There was also some good

competition".

Matt had one other kid in his category. He did great and gained the same level of achievement as all the other kids. Matt bowled fifteen rounds while the other kids bowled two whole games. Matt was the high bowler for his category, placing him in first, just like AHS's other competitor, Jacob.

Good job to both boys, and way to represent AHS.

School News

6

Algona High School

Edited by: Rachel Feuring & Celeste Smith

December 9, 2011

Tour of Homes

Megan Crosser

On December 4th, from 4-7, the AHS vocal choir sang in their 3rd annual Tour of Homes. The choir entertained the town as they walked through the well decorated homes for the holidays.

The homes that were shown this year were Bill and Robin Parker, Sandy Menke, Al and Michelle Hjelle, and Harold and Jeanine Haack. "It was a very heart warming experience," said Austin Warmbier.

Tickets were ten dollars and were available through any choir member, at our local Premiere Pizza, and at the AHS main office.

The money raised from this event will go towards the choir's bi-annual choir trip. The choir will be going to Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, this year from March 28th to April 1st. Thanks for helping and supporting the AHS choir; they raised around 1500 dollars.



Before becoming a teacher at AHS, she worked at Denison Job Corps, was center director at Sylvan Learning Center, and taught at Whiting High School.

Her favorite thing about being a teacher is watching the growth in students and watching them excel. She also likes seeing them think and asking questions to expand their thinking and academic abilities.

Ms. Elle coaches the speech and theatre at AHS. She likes being able to guide students in a unique form of literature and communication.

Ms. Elle

Jessica Mueller

This week in the teacher's spotlight is Ms. Elle. Ms. Elle grew up in Dow City, Iowa. In her free time she likes to go to movies, read, and sew. She also loves to decorate her house during the holidays and do theatrical productions. She has three kids: Cameron, Morgan, and Katelyn. She is married to Steve Cox.

She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with her Bachelor's degree. Then she graduated from Morningside with her Master's degree. Tay Vaske said, "Ms. Elle is only teacher I hear walking down the hall in heels every day."

Ms. Elle has been teaching for fourteen years.



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